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FTA news

FOOD TOBACCO AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA - CIO

Vol. V, No. 16 Oct. 1, 1945 Price 5 Cents

Demand 15c Raise; Overtime Pay In Calif. Canneries

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JAN 23 1946
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

By Dolph Winebrenner, Cannery Drive Publicity Director

San Francisco, Calif.—Demands for immediate wage increases of 15c an hour and 20% in piece rates has been made by workers in Northern California canneries, it was announced this week by Int. Pres. Donald Henderson.

The wage demand is part of a four-point program unanimously voted by nearly 100 delegates at a Northern California cannery workers conference held Sunday, Sept. 23, at FTA headquarters here.

The delegates also voted to demand time and a half for overtime after 8 hours a day and 40 hours a week and voted to take up grievances in the canneries. Fourth demand was for an industry-wide NLRB election in the canneries.

Delegates also conferred with Henderson preparatory to setting up a Northern California CIO Cannery Council.

Henderson announced that FTA filed final arguments in its petition for an NLRB election and that more than 14,000 FTA pledge cards signed by Northern California cannery workers have been filed with the NLRB. Hearings on the petition for an election were held here two weeks ago, and the case is now before the Board in Washington.

To Raise Buying Power

"The wage program voted by the cannery workers under the leadership of FTA is meant to substantially raise purchasing power in the agricultural areas of the state and to put country wages in line with those of [illegible] other industries," Henderson said. "It will not bar wage increases for the next season."

"Wage adjustments which could have been attained for the cannery workers this year were not even sought because of the muddled situation in the canneries after the AFL national executive board ordered the cannery workers into the Teamsters Union. At present, the AFL is doing nothing to raise the workers wages or to better their conditions, and the existing contract is being violated in all areas.

"The FTA will seek to improve wages without resorting to strikes or stoppages and without hurting the farmer's disposal of his crops."

Three cannery and food processing workers unions of FTA—those at Sacramento, Stockton and Modesto, were present at the meeting, in addition to delegates from Hayward, Oakland, San Jose, Sunnyvale, Marysville, Colma and other areas. Delegates came from more than 25 canneries.

Win Grievances

Meanwhile plant committees of CIO workers began to take up and win grievances in the canneries, while FTA stepped up its campaign to win higher wages and better conditions for Northern California's 60 thousand cannery workers.

AFL and Teamster officials continued to do nothing to aid the workers. On its way to thousands of workers was a questionnaire prepared by the CIO to find out what workers think of wages and conditions.

First wage fight won, as the FTA speeded its campaign, was in the Modesto area, where CIO protests upped the tomato rate at the Stanislaus cannery after the Company tried to violate the contract and pay an illegal rate.

Workers reported to the first meeting of the Modesto FTA local that the cannery had announced it would pay only 5½c for No. 10 cans and $1.75 per 100 for No. 2½ cans. This was below last year's rate of 6c and $2 per 100 for piece work solid pack tomatoes.

The FTA local decided to protest, and there was a half-hour stoppage the following day after a plant committee led by CIO members protested. Half an hour later, the legal rate was put back.

No further attempts to cut tomato rates were expected as a result of the action.

Similar action to settle grievances was expected to follow in other canneries where hundreds of workers are joining the FTA after finding that the AFL and Teamsters will not help them.

Plant Committees Functioning

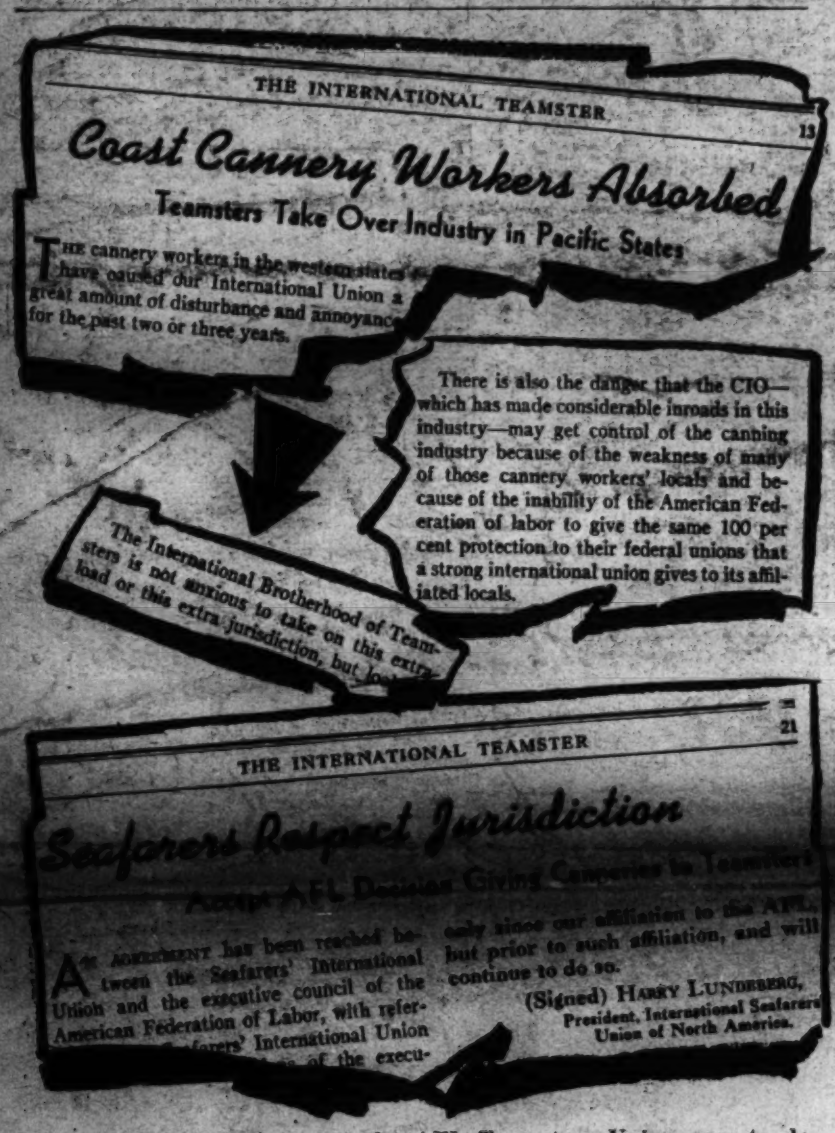
Meanwhile, the FTA sent out thousands of questionnaires to cannery workers to get their ideas on demands for higher wages, seniority, overtime, call-in-pay, department stewards, etc.

Plant committees led by FTA members were functioning in many canneries. Stockton reported the committee at Richmond-Chase won two out of the first three grievances brought up. They got [illegible] been too much steam, and a nurse available at all times for women workers.

For a 65c Minimum!

Read about FTA and the Pepper Bill . . .

pages 2, 5


THE INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER
13
Coast Cannery Workers Absorbed
Teamsters Take Over Industry in Pacific States
THE cannery workers in the western states ... have caused our International Union a great amount of disturbance and annoyance for the past two or three years.
There is also the danger that the CIO—which has made considerable inroads in this industry—may get control of the canning industry because of the weakness of many of those cannery workers' locals and because of the inability of the American Federation of labor to give the same 100 per cent protection to their federal unions that a strong international union gives to its affiliated locals.
The International Brotherhood of Teamsters is not anxious to take on this extra load or this extra jurisdiction, but [illegible]
THE INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER
21
Seafarers Respect Jurisdiction
Accept AFL Decision Giving Canneries to Teamsters
AN AGREEMENT has been reached between the Seafarers' International Union and the executive council of the American Federation of Labor, with refer- ... Seafarers' International Union ... of the executive ... only since our affiliation to the AFL but prior to such affiliation, and will continue to do so.
(Signed) HARRY LUNDEBERG,
President, International Seafarers Union of North America.

Annoying is the word the AFL Teamsters Union uses to describe the cannery workers in Northern California. Although they say that they "are not anxious to take on this extra load" which the AFL has willed to them, the Teamsters have not hesitated to send their goons in to prevent the workers from joining FTA. (P.S.—More than 14,000 have already joined.)

Proof that the workers in the Northern California canneries want FTA for their Union are the thousands of signed pledge cards being presented (above) to an NLRB field examiner by FTA leaders. Carrying the boxes are (left to right): Elizabeth Sasuly, FTA Washington Representative; Donald Henderson, International President; and Luisa Moreno, Regional Director. The Union has asked for an industrywide election, covering 60,000 workers in this important cannery area, and the NLRB's decision is expected momentarily. Meanwhile, delegates from more than 25 canneries met on September 23 to draw up FTA demands for the canneries. Chief among the demands are: wage increases of 15c per hour and 20% for piece rates; time-and-a-half after 8 hours per day and 40 hours per week; settlement of grievances; and an industry-wide NLRB election this Fall. (See complete story on this page.)

House Shelves Jobless Pay

Washington, D. C. — Thumbing its nose at the millions of unemployed war workers now receiving inadequate unemployment benefits, the House Ways and Means Committee put the jobless pay bill on the shelf "indefinitely on September 25.

The bill, which passed the Senate after being wittled down, was indefinitely postponed by the House Committee which preferred to turn immediately to drafting a new tax bill to cut taxes for the wealthy. The original jobless pay bill called for $25 per week in unemployment compensation for a maximum of 26 weeks, but the Senate did not approve the $25 per week provision.

CIO President Philip Murray sharply criticized the House Committee in the following message sent to all CIO unions:

"The House Ways and Means Committee has turned its back completely on the needs of the worker and of the entire nation in voting to end all consideration of even the inadequate Senate bill for unemployment compensation. In place of acting on this bill the Committee voted to take up new proposals for tax relief for the rich and for the war-swollen corporations.

"It is time that Congress felt the indignation of every voter on this issue."

CIO Raps Laxity Of Pres. Truman

Washington, D.C.—The Truman Administration is not showing enough effort to win passage of the full employment bill, unemployment compensation and 65c minimum wage bills, which the President asked for in his message of Sept. 6, CIO Pres. Philip Murray charged.

Murray's warning came in a statement on Sept. 19 to a delegation of over 1,000 New York State unionists here to visit members of the House and Senate on behalf of the measures.

"Three of the leading measures called for in the message are threatened by lack of any organized effort by the administration or its supporters inside or outside of Congress, Murray said.

"If these three measures are not passed in substantially the form asked by the President, it will represent a body blow to postwar recovery and a repudiation of the President's leadership. I do not consider that the administration and leadership of the Democratic party in Congress have shown sufficient exertion to date on these crucial measures."

Murray advised the delegates to tell Congress "that the people back home expect speedy action in support of the President's message," and urged them to report back home on the failure of Congress to date "to rise to the tremendous job which faces it. The next 100 days should be as important for progressive legislation passed as any period in our history since 1933."

Wallace Sees Sharp Drop in Incomes

Washington, D.C. — A drop of about $8 billion in individual incomes for the second half of 1945 was predicted by Secy of Commerce Henry A. Wallace.

In a departmental review, Wallace attributed the sharp drop to heavy cancellations of war contracts following V-J Day. "While the immediate curtailment of purchasing power will not be serious," Wallace said, "prompt reconversion by business and vigorous government action is needed to prevent mounting deflatio and unemployment."

Jack Up The Minimum!

FROM WASHINGTON

Action on the Pepper Bill

BY JESSICA RHINE, Acting Washington Representative

THE Number One bread-and-butter issue for FTA members is the Pepper Bill (S 1349) to amend the Wage-Hour Act. This bill raises the minimum wage from 40c an hour to 65c and extends coverage to some groups of workers who are now left completely out. Hearings on this bill start September 25 before the Senate Education and Labor Committee.

President Truman, in his report to Congress, pointed out that the present 40c minimum wage is completely out of date. He recommended that Congress "substantially" increase the minimum and that the scope of the Act be "clarified and extended." Specifically he stated that it was "no longer necessary to exclude from the minimum wage program the large number of workers engaged in agricultural processing who are now excluded."

Equally important is the bill's provision to give wage and hour protection for the first time to seamen, fish cannery workers and workers engaged in canning, packing and other processing of agricultural products in the geographical area in which they are produced. The bill would also end exemptions which give canneries, packingsheds and many other employers the privilege of not paying time and a half after 40 hours during all or part of the war.

Why Exemptions?

Some of these exemptions were originally put into the law as the result of a campaign which claimed that farmers would be injured if the products they grew were processed in plants fully covered by the minimum wage and overtime wage provisions of the law. That was anti-labor propaganda by food processing interests cleverly using "farmers" to cover up their real purpose—low wages.

Farmers, of course, are benefited if decent wages are paid to food, tobacco and cotton processing workers. Full coverage of the Wage and Hour law will contribute to maintaining purchasing power so that farmers will be able to sell full production at good prices.

Elimination of the exemptions in the Act is absolutely necessary in order to cover agricultural processing workers, as President Truman recommended.

These proposed amendments in the Pepper Bill all add up to raising the standard of living for millions of Americans. It is a vital part of the program for full employment and high wages and it will immediately insure much-needed purchasing power to keep the factories and businesses of our country going.

Opposition Heavy

Obvious as this is to us, there are still plenty of employers who are aghast at the idea of paying more than 40c an hour to anyone, and the letters are already piling up on Senator Pepper's desk protesting this bill. Arguments against the bill range from out-and-out spite (workers are lazy good-for-nothing — they aren't worth 65c an hour!) to more pretentious theories about the economy of the South being dependent on low wages.

Our best chance of seeing the Pepper Bill become law is to prove that its supporters outnumber its opponents.

And, as a matter of fact, this is quite true. An increasing number of church, consumer and social organizations are going on record in favor of S 1349. But so far we have not marshalled enough "non-labor" support. Unless we improve this picture substantially, the minimum wage bill will be sabotaged, just as the unemployment insurance bill was.

Rally Community

So far, the National Consumers League, 348 Engineers Building, Cleveland 14, Ohio, has taken the lead in showing Congress how strongly non-union groups support the Pepper Bill. Get the churches, fraternities, women's organizations and civic groups in your community to write to their Senators and to the National Consumers League on this issue.

Businessmen's organizations, too, can be convinced to support this bill. Higher wages mean increased purchasing power and better business. They mean improved health and a decent community.

See to it that your local union takes the lead in rallying the entire community behind this bill. Write to our Washington Office and let us know what you are doing.

Tell It To Congress

THE PEOPLE must continue to tell Congress what they want by sending telegrams and letters and making visits in delegations expressing their opinions on the issues of the day. Here are some of the important issues to work for:

Full Employment Bill (S 880 and HR 2202)

Empowers federal government to see that everyone has a job, either through private enterprise or U. S. aid. Ready for debate on Senate floor.

ACTION: Wire your Senators insisting that they support bill.

Equal Pay Bill (S 1178)

Requires equal pay for equal work. No discrimination against women in hiring or layoffs. Hearings to start this month in Senate Labor Committee.

ACTION: Write Sen. Murray, Chairman, to report bill out favorably. Urge Senators to support.

Fair Employment Practices Commission (S 101 and HR 2322)

Establishes FEPC as permanent agency. Stalled by Rules Committee. Representatives must sign Discharge Petition No. 4 to bring bill on floor for discussion. Seventy-five more names needed. Senate bill still being studied.

ACTION: Write and demand your Representative signs petition and works for passage. Urge Senators to vote for it.

Missouri Valley Authority (S 555)

Provides for "TVA" affecting industrial developments and flood control in nine states. Hearings before Senate Irrigation Committee.

ACTION: Write your Senators to support.

Address all Senators: Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.
Address all Representatives: House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

Murray Presents New CIO Tax Plan

Washington, D.C. — CIO Pres. Philip Murray announced Sept. 18 a "CIO Program for Immediate Tax Revision." The program was sent to Secy. of Treasury Fred M. Vinson and all members of Congress.

Calling restoration of cuts in the purchasing power of American workers the "most important and immediate problem facing our nation," and reviewing the special tax benefits granted to industry, Murray presented a 7-point program. These points include:

- **Repeal the present 3% "normal" tax as a means of relief for low income taxpayers;**
- **Raise the present exemptions for single persons to $1,500, for married persons to $2,500, and $500 for each dependent.**

New Labor Relations Bill Is Introduced

Washington, D.C.—A new Senate bill, designed to promote industrial harmony but avoid the anti-labor provisions of the Ball-Burton-Hatch measure, was introduced Sept. 20 by Sen. Brien McMahon (D., Conn.). The bill (S 1419), McMahon said, was aimed to avoid "shotgun marriages between labor and management."

Written after conefrences with War Labor Board Chairman George Taylor and other government labor experts, the bill was also submitted to AFL Pres. William Green, WMC Commissioner Paul V. McNutt and Pres. Ira Mosher of the Natl. Assn. of Manufacturers.

McMahon said he had also submitted it to the CIO and had invited both the CIO and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce to the discussions, but said they were unable to attend.

First emphasis of the bill is placed on free collective bargaining between labor and management. In order to handle disputes that are not settled by negotiation between the parties, the measure sets up a division of mediation and conciliation in the Department of Labor.

Should conciliation and mediation fail to settle a dispute, the McMahon bill has another step that can be taken voluntarily—only by agreement of both sides. This step calls for final settlement before a board of arbitration named by the President.

Calls Red Hunt a National Scandal

New York, N. Y. — The House Committee on Un-American Activities was charged on Sept. 21 with being "only a continuation of the discredited and dangerous Dies Committee." Chairman George Marshall of the National Federation for Constitution Liberties called for the immediate abolition of the Committee.

Marshall's demand followed announcement by the committee that it would hold hearings on "the red menace." Quoting from the official army orientation bulletin on native fascists, which states that "the 'red bogey' was a convincing enough argument to help Hitler take and maintain power," Marshall said:

"It is a national scandal that, at this late date in history, the House committee, which has made no effort to investigate the increasing activity of the real and recognized seditionists, adopts the tactics of Hitler."

Win Election, 5c Raise At Reid-Murdoch Plant

Rochester, Minn.—By a vote of 232 to 8, Local 59 won bargaining rights on Sept. 7 for 400 workers at the Reid-Murdoch Canning Co. here, following a strike for union recognition two weeks previous to the election.

Some 175 workers took part in the strike, which wound up with the Company agreeing to an election and an immediate 5c per hour general increase retroactive to July 1.

A giant victory rally was held by the Local at the Armory on August 30 to celebrate the settlement of the strike.

Expressing Local 59's joy over the election victory, Gunhild Bjorklund, Local 59 representative, announced that negotiations are already in progress on a contract for the plant.

Main point to be won is provision for overtime pay after 40 hours in order to remove the plant from the exemptions in the Wage and Hour Act.

"Some of the workers, at the height of the canning season, have been putting in from 12 to 22 hours a day with no overtime pay," Miss Bjorklund said. "We must have a proper settlement on this issue."

Local 59 is also asking for a 65c minimum wage and a 10c general increase, 5c of which had already been agree to in the strike settlement.

"Darling, if CIO's reconversion plan goes through, and if we get assurance of adequate take-home pay along with real price control—will you marry me?"

Hills Bros. Workers On Strike For Wage Raises, Improved Conditions

Brooklyn, N. Y. — A 100% walkout of the 350 employees at the Hills Bros. plant here began on Sept. 24, after the Company refused to grant wage increases demanded by Local 207. With the full support of the FTA Regional Council, the Local has dispatched pickets around the plant and in front of New York chain stores and groceries where Hills Bros.' Dromedary Dates are sold. In many stores, the dates have been removed from the shelves and sent back to the Company.

The strike was called by an open vote of the membership on Sept. 15, after the Company had refused the Union's demands. Local 207 is asking for a 65c minimum for women and 85c minimum for men; dues checkoff; revision of job classifications and seniority rights; and sick benefits.

Upon receiving the Union's ultimatum, the Company offered to increase wages up to 55c per hour for women and 70c for men, plus a 10% bonus for date packers, to be reduced to 6% after December 1. All other demands were refused.

The membership rejected the Company's compromise offer and stopped production in the plant on Monday, Sept. 24.

Dissatisfaction had been brewing at the plant since last January, when the plant reconverted from the packing of K rations and production of Fruit Bars for the Army Quartermaster Corps, back to the packing of Dromedary Dates. Date packing had been suspended in 1942, when the Company got its war contracts.

As soon as reconversion took place, wages for many of the workers took a sharp drop. Fruit bar packers who had been making about $41 per week, suddenly found $16 or $20 in their pay envelopes. In the Gingerbread department, men are earning $5 and $6 per week less than before due to shorter hours.

Support from other FTA locals are coming in, in the form of a $100 donation from Local 105, with a promise for more when needed, and pledges from the memberships of Locals 56 and 273 to send funds to the strikers.

On the March in the Toledo, Ohio, Labor Day Parade were Local 297 members (above) along with 20 thousand other workers. Following the parade, the Local 297 marchers enjoyed a party. And they had good reason to celebrate, for they had just won a 5c an hour retroactive wage increase from the Woolson Spice Co. About 150 members will share in the back pay, some getting as high as $300.

Originally the Local was only granted a 3c increase by the WLB, although they had asked for 5c. Following the Board announcement that voluntary wage increases would be approved, the Negotiating Committee made haste to convince the Company that they were entitled to the additional 2c an hour.

Negotiating Committee members were: Pres. Norton Ackerman, Vice-Pres. D. Fisher, Treas. S. Shoemaker, G. Osterman and Roy Chambers.

Pvt. Leon Frisch, now serving as a cook in the Army, visited the plant while home on furlough recently.

A Victory Party will be held on Oct. 27 for Woolson Spice employees. Tickets can be obtained from Union members at $1 apiece.

Congratulations to the Hinelines on the arrival of their new son.

By Virginia Lee, Reporter

FTA news

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affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations
1505 Race Street
Philadelphia 2, Pa.
(Address all communications to Philadelphia office.)

DONALD HENDERSON
General President
HAROLD J. LANE
General Secretary-Treasurer

Vice-Presidents
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John Mac Dyson
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Luisa Moreno
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More Gains At Campbell

By Paul Gardner, Business Agent

Chicago, Ill.—Following up on the announcement of the successful settlement of disputes which resulted in a new agreement between Local 194 and Campbell Soup Co., the Local reports further gains made to consolidate its position in the plant.

A policy on transfers was negotiated which will once and for all end the practice on the part of the supervisors in the plant of transferring anyone they had a personal desire to get rid of. In the past, this practice provoked many grievances and resulted in open favoritism and anti-unionism.

Union and Grievances

The Local also won the right to bargain on all grievances through the incorporation of the following clause on the first step of the grievance procedure: "Between the employee affected, the Departmental Steward and the immediate supervisory foreman, except that this clause shall not prevent individual employees from presenting grievances to the Company. In the event the latter occurs, the Company will negotiate with the Union concerning the disposition of such grievances, except those which the Union agrees may be readjusted without notification to it or without its participation. Group grievances shall start at Step 2."

The agreement reached between the Company and Local 194 was the result of constant struggle for over two years to get the Company to bargain in good faith. Prime issue stressed by the Union throughout was that of Union security and wages.

Chief gains won by the Union in the settlement were wage increases and 100% premium on incentive instead of the former 75%.

Win Wage Raise To Make Up For Overtime Pay

Los Angeles, Calif.—With the successful conclusion of contract negotiations by Local 3, some 900 workers at the California Walnut Growers Assn. Plant One and Two went back on the old 40-hour work week with a 3¾c an hour increase to make up for the loss in overtime pay.

An additional 5c an hour was guaranteed by the Company's agreement to pay a weekly advance of 5c per hour on incentive earnings. No deductions from the base pay will be made to balance off the incentive pay.

At the end of every 4-week period, the additional incentive earned, over the 5c an hour already advanced, will be added onto the pay check. This means another 4c an hour increase if the workers are able to maintain the past two year average, which they will receive every fourth pay check, or a total of $6.40.

Since the establishment of the incentive plan at Walnut Growers in 1943, the workers have actually made a gain of 12¾c an hour.

Vacation Pay Up

Vacation pay figured on their straight time earnings for the season at 4% will also net the workers the equivalent of 2 weeks pay out of every 52.

The former graveyard shift differential of 5c per hour was extended to include all hours worked on the 10 or 12 hour night shifts.

If and when any time is worked on Saturday, regular overtime rates will be paid in addition to that worked during the week, Monday through Friday. No Saturday overtime will be worked to absorb any overtime made during the 5 regular work days.

An excellent job was done by the Negotiating Committee in securing another three-year contract with a wage and hour reopening clause, and in winning mandatory checkoff.

The Negotiating Committee members were: Pres. Wm. F. Patty, 7th floor Shop Steward Amelia Gunther, 4th floor Steward Ramona Winters, Rose Del Rio, Antonio Gutteriez and Katie Haloboff — 3rd floor Stewards, Board Members Frank Temple and Charles Lawson. Int. Vice-Pres. Dixie Tiller and Bus. Agt. O. H. Johnston assisted.

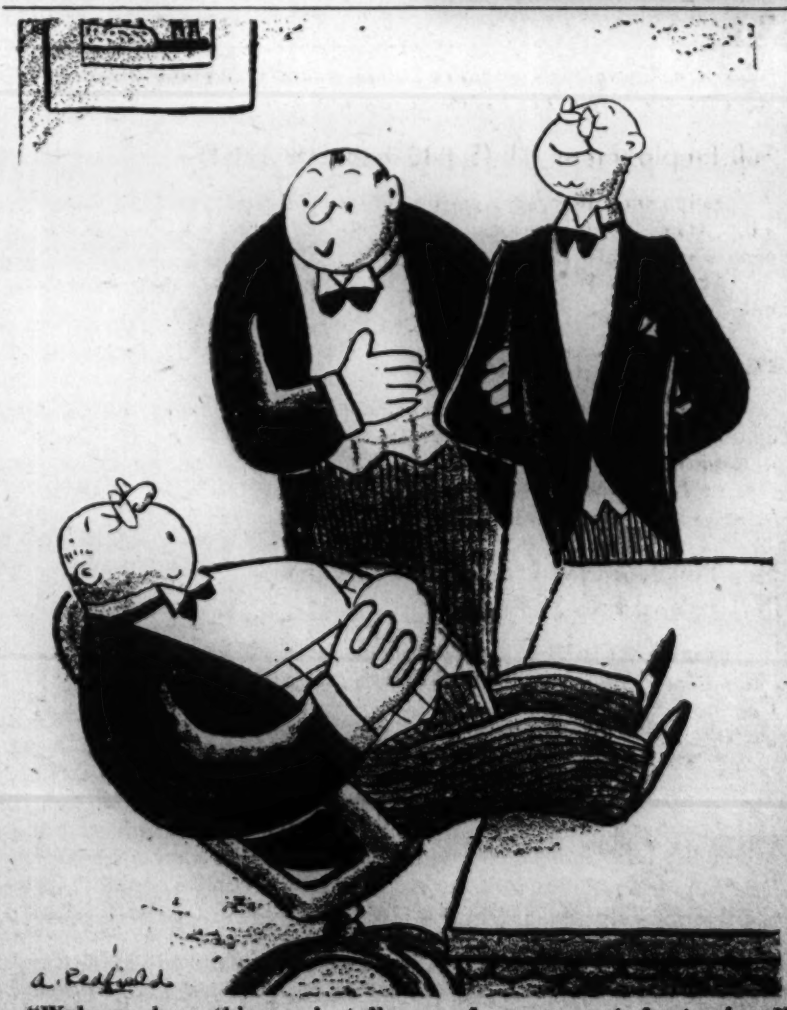
Agreement Reached On Peak Labor

Oskaloosa, Iowa — At a recent conference held to settle the problem of supplying seasonal workers for the Marshall Canning Co., it was agreed by all that the closed shop would be strictly enforced.

In addition to Local 155 representatives, there were Mr. Story of the Farm Bureau, Mr. Reiger of the Employment Agency, Mr. Dillin representing Farm Labor and Mr. W. W. Cuddy, of the War Manpower Commission.

It was further agreed that if the Union and the Company cannot supply the much needed help, then the Employment Agency can step in and help furnish the labor. Anyone hired outside the Union list must join the Union. Mr. Cuddy said that the WMC could supply workers if the Union could not supply the help. However, Ben McNeil, plant superintendent, said, that 18 or 20 women will begin the day's run, and that already some 30 women workers from las season have already replied that they are available for work.

Mr. Cuddy announced that the WMC will not send any help until all members on the seniority list have been cleared as well as those who are not on the list. Mr. McNeil requested a list of all Union members who were not on the seniority list so that he could hire them.



"Wake up, boss, this guy just discovered a new way to bust unions."
(FP cartoon by Redfield.)

Big CIO Unions Open Drive For Wage Increases

Washington, D. C.—Sharp demands for wage increases to maintain a decent standard of living for their members, in the face of cutbacks and the rising cost of living, were presented to employers by the Executive Boards of five of the largest CIO Unions. They are: the United Auto Workers, United Steelworkers, United Rubber Workers, United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers, and United Oil Workers.

In Detroit, the nation's auto center, UAW officials revealed their plans to demand and win a 30% pay raise in the industry. Both the United Electrical workers and the Steelworkers unions decided at Executive Board meetings to ask for $2-a-day raises.

The United Rubber Workers demands involved a 30c an hour raise, a basic 30-hour week with time-and-a-half for time over 6 hours a day and 30 hours a week, as they had before the war, double time for Sunday and 6 holidays when worked, and 10c an hour night shift differentials.

Pres. O. A. Knight of the Oil Workers said that the Union would press for "52 hours pay for a 40-hour week or less."

Wages "Cut to the Bone"

A clear statement of what lies behind the UAW's demands for a 30% pay increase was given by UAW Vice-Pres. Richard T. Frankensteen in a recent radio interview over the Detroit networks.

"For the auto worker the answer is pretty plain," Frankensteen said. "Since 1942 his wages have been frozen. His cost of living has skyrocketed 50%. The corporations for which he works have been piling up staggering profits. Now that the war is over, thousands have been laid off, and the weekly take-home wages have been cut to the bone."

Pointing out that the industry has comfortable rolls of profit out of which wage increases could be paid, Frankensteen added that "when war production was in high gear, the auto industry paid out 50 million dollars per week in wages. Now the weekly wage bill is down to less than 20 million."

United Action

"The union will strike only as a last resort if our demands are denied," Frankensteen declared. "Every effort is now being made to settle the Kelsey-Hayes strike in Detroit . . . But only if we act unitedly to meet the festering grievances of the men and women in the shops can we establish real discipline and responsibility in the union," he said.

In Pittsburgh, Philip Murray, president of the Steelworkers and of CIO, announced that the steel companies had been invited to a collective bargaining conference.

To Assure Decent Standards

"Frequent have been the expressions from high government officials that in the interest of our national welfare and to assure a firm foundation of postwar prosperity, it is essential that the mass purchasing power of the people be steadily increased," Murray said, adding that "a substantial wage increase for the steelworkers is now necessary to assure a decent standard of living for them and their families and is vital for our nation."

Meanwhile in New York, the UE Executive Board advised all locals to open negotiations immediately for a $2-a-day-wage increase.

"A $2-a-day wage increase is of urgent importance for the security and health of workers whose incomes have been seriously reduced as a result of the cut in working hours since V-J Day," said UE Pres. Albert J. Fitzgerald and UE Secy.-Treas. Julius Emspak.

In the Interest of All

"Small merchants and businessmen, doctors, dentists, farmers, housewives, all will suffer if the wage-earner is not given sufficient wages to pay his bills and live at a standard of health and decency."

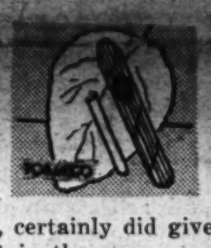
The Oil Workers Union revealed that the oil companies could well afford wage increases. "The oil companies," Pres. Knight declared, "enter the reconversion period with enormous financial reserves, an assured market and few of the headaches that characterize other industries which mobilized for war."

LET HIM BEAT HIS BRAINS OUT!

Joining The Union Train At American Tobacco

By Reuel Stanfield, President, Local 15

Charleston, S. C.—Local 15's theme song these days is "Things Are Getting Better All the Time." As they add up the score in the organizing drive at American Tobacco, it reads: July—49 new members; August—50 new members; and September—145 new members! And the recent WLB directive ordering a 5c an hour increase retroactive to December 15, 1944, certainly did give the drive a shot in the arm.



Of course, the Company still has not given up using its foreman and stooges as weapons against the drive, but it won't get them very far. In some departments the foremen have gone so far as to order the workers not to talk in the shop. One Union member got around that trick okay by signing up 8 new members in sign language.

Mr. Tucker, the Assistant Manager of the plant, has been making remarks to the effect that the plant will close down if the Union doesn't stop demanding better working conditions and higher wages. This makes swell campaign talk for the Union because the workers know that the Union is the only safeguard against these threats.

The following members were among the most active in signing up new members in the organizing drive: Bonneau signed up 23; Husser—12; Coakley—8; Bunch—22, and Wright—14.

Political action, too, is making strides in the Local with a fine turnout for registration in preparation for the 1946 elections.

Back Pay Coming Through At Henry Clay And Bock

By Lucy Aiello, President, Local 56

Trenton, N. J.—"This is the first time anything like this ever happened to us," said a Local 56 member when the wage increases won through their first contract with the Henry Clay and Bock Cigar Co. came through on Sept. 13. The increases were 7% for piece workers and 10% for hourly workers, retroactive to January 9.

Deciding that it was high time now to make the plant a 100% Union shop, the girls staged a demonstration and signed up 75 new members. With the signatures of six more workers, they will reach their goal.

Back pay checks are scheduled to come through any moment and the girls expect to celebrate with a trip to New York City.

Plans are under way to organize two other factories, hire a full-time Business Agent and rent a Union headquarters.

Win 2c-9c Raises At P. Lorillard

By Jennie Stiver, Reporter

Middletown, Ohio—At a special meeting of Local 55, Business Agent E. P. Murphy announced that the WLB had finally ordered wage increases for the workers of the P. Lorillard Co. ranging from 2c to 7c an hour for men, and 7c to 9c an hour for women. The increases are retroactive to March 7.

In addition, the workers will receive 6 paid holidays a year.

The contract was read and explained, and a round of applause was given for the Negotiating Committee.

5c Increase At Cargill

By Agnes Dvorak, Reporter

Cedar Rapids, Iowa—Local 110 jacked up the minimum wage at the Cargill Co. to 80c an hour through a flat 5c an hour increase made effective on September 3. The Cargill plant was also the first plant in the area to establish a 5c per hour night bonus for the industry.

Last spring, just as negotiations were going through for the raise, the plant was damaged by a million dollar fire which levelled nearly every building. The Company kept all its employees on the payroll, but told the Union that they would not grant an increase until later.

Shortly before the final surrender of the Axis, the Company called in the Union and together they filed a Form 10 for the raise. This was never processed, for as the final Japanese surrender came, the WLB ruling came out that voluntary increases would be granted. As a result, the Company immediately granted the increase affecting some 30 employees. Two days' pay for the V-J holidays, Aug. 15 and 16, was also granted.

Negotiating Committee

Members of the Negotiating Committee were Sydney Forbes, Chairman; Joe Vrana, Vice-Chairman; Warren Waggener, Chief Steward; and Louis F. Jedlicka, Bus. Agt.

Jack Zetka, a charter member of Local 110, died recently and the Local extends its sympathies to his family.

Get Worker Reinstated

By Jack Sparks, Int. Org.

St. Joseph, Mo.—It seems that the Dannen Grain and Milling Co. didn't learn its lesson when the Union made them reinstate Jesse Kirkpatrick after they fired him on a pretense. This time they tried the same trick by firing another Local 125 member, Gilbert Abernathy, for insubordination. And again they didn't win.

The charge against Abernathy was based on his refusal to perform a job to which he was assigned temporarily. It was a particularly dusty job and irritated his eyes which are very weak. He offered to do any other job in the plant, but the boss refused to change him and ordered him fired.

Put Back on Job

The matter was taken up as a grievance and the Company refused to even meet and discuss the case. Conciliation Service was called in and a meeting was held where the Company maintained that Abernathy had not been discharged, but had quit. They reinstated him the morning of the hearing.

The Company was advised that it could not refuse to bargain with the Union, and Abernathy was paid $36.75 for the time he had lost.

Participating in the case were: Maurice Watson, Chairman of the Dannen Unit; Jesse Kirkpatrick, Secy.; George Jensen and Paul McCann, Chief Plant Stewards; Ancil Henderson, Shop Steward; and Int. Org. Jack Sparks.

The People's Health: Labor's and the people's fight for the expansion of social security is championed by the Physicians Forum in a pamphlet called "For the People's Health." The 16-page pamphlet, from which the above picture is taken, tells the facts about the health needs of the American people. "For the People's Health" sets forth the plan for health insurance embodied in the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill and shows how it will provide for extension of the present Social Security law to include payment of doctors' and hospital bills and for construction of hospitals where needed. Copies of the pamphlet can be obtained by writing to the Physicians Forum, Inc., 510 Madison Ave., New York 22, N. Y.

As long as it takes...
CIO Gives

To help our own and our allies until the whole job is done, give to your COMMUNITY WAR FUND

CIO War Relief Committee

FOR A 65c MINIMUM

Profits in the cigarette industry are among the highest, and wages are all the way down. The "big five" cigarette corporations, who control 90% of all cigarette production, reaped a modest profit of almost 122 million dollars in 1943, while wages averaged only 76c per hour—26c less than in industry as a whole. Like the other cigarette companies R. J. Reynolds (above) pays a minimum wage of only 55c an hour. Yet labor costs in the cigarette industry are lower than in any other. Of every $1 worth of cigarettes sold by a manufacturer, only 2½c went to labor in the cigarette factory.

Cannery associations often argue that they cannot pay higher wages, because it would force the farmers to pay higher wages to farm labor. It was a mighty surprise to them, during the war period, when they found that they could not get enough manpower because farm laborers were earning much higher rates. At its 1943 convention, the Michigan Canners' Association petitioned the WLB to raise wages in the canning industry in order to attract more workers to the canneries. Even so, average hourly earnings in the cannery and preserving industry is 25c less than in manufacturing as a whole.

Agricultural? The citrus interests have continually fought against wage increases and coverage under the Wage-Hour Act on the grounds that packingshed workers are "agricultural." A government committee reported in 1940, however, that "packinghouse employees are distinctly industrial labor . . . They are factory workers, skilled and unskilled, carrying out routinized operations." (Note picture of packingshed, above.)

FTA Witnesses To Testify In Favor Of Pepper Bill

FTA members in canneries and tobacco plants are trekking to Washington to tell the U. S. Senate that workers must have a living wage. They are being joined by other CIO members—from low-paid textile shops and highly paid steel factories—and by consumer groups and scores of other organizations who will tell the same story to Congress, citing facts and figures.

The occasion for this testimony is the open hearings before the Senate Education and Labor Committee on the Pepper Bill (S 1349) which would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act (Wage-Hour Act) to provide a 65c minimum wage for American workers. FTA members are scheduled to testify early in October, when representatives of the food and tobacco industries will also be heard.

The Pepper Bill amends the Fair Labor Standards Act to provide for:

- 65c per hour to be established as the legal minimum wage;
- After a year the minimum to be raised to 75c per hour;
- The new minimum wage becomes effective 4 months after the bill is passed by Congress;
- The Act is to be broadened to cover food processing workers more completely and merchant seamen for the first time;

Of the 900,000 workers in food, fibre and tobacco industries, more than 400,000 (almost one-half) make less than 65c an hour. The U. S. government has figured that a family of four needs at least $1621 a year to live on. But even with a 65c an hour wage, a worker will only make $1380 per year on a 40-hour week, 50-week job.

The 80,000 workers in plants under contract with FTA have begun to improve their conditions and, in many places, to win minimum wages much higher than 65c. Only through passage of the Pepper Bill, however, can the barest minimum living standards be immediately secured for all.

One Million Workers Are Not Protected By Law

SHOULD workers suffer because they work in certain industries? The Fair Labor Standards Act was passed by Congress in 1938 to protect working standards. It provided that employers could not pay less than 40c per hour, and that time-and-a-half be paid after 40 hours a week—except for certain "exemptions!"

Through pressure from employer groups and highly organized "corporation farmers," Congress left out more than 1 million workers from either wage or hour protection.

The Act says that some 600,000 workers in canneries and packingsheds need not be paid time-and-a-half for overtime during 14 weeks of the year; and need only be paid for overtime after 56 hours a week during 14 more "seasonal" months.

Likewise excluded from any overtime payment are 177,000 workers engaged in "the first processing" of dairy products, in cotton processing and in sugar and syrup processing.

Neither minimum wage nor maximum hour protection was given to about 50,000 fish cannery workers. The same was done for 175,000 food processing workers in establishments located in the "area of production."

Proof that there is no justification for these exemptions is the fact that, in most FTA contracts, employers in canneries, packingsheds and cotton oil mills pay time-and-a-half overtime all year round.

The Pepper Bill would remove these exemptions, except for the 56 hour week during 14 weeks in canneries. It would also include merchant seamen in the Act for the first time.

FTA proposes that the Pepper Bill should go still further and wipe out all exemptions for workers in "seasonal" industries. And the Act should be extended to cover agricultural workers on the big farms. There is no reason why all workers should not be protected by wage and hour regulations.

Living Wage Needed For Full Employment—Pepper

By Senator Claude Pepper

FOR over a year now the press has been busy worrying the bone of "full employment." It has become a catchword. Most people think it is a good thing, but they do not know what it really means . . .

One of the things wrong with the slogan "full employment" is that it is only a half-slogan. A nation employed on substandard wage scales is not full employed. A nation whose workers are paid so little that they cannot purchase the goods and services they produce is not a fully employed nation.

A nation whose people do not earn enough money to maintain their health and their welfare is not only not full employed, it is not even democratic, in the sense of democracy as a way of life.

The aim must be: "full employment at high wages." That is the goal set for the American economy by the progressive forces in Congress. It is for this reason—for the reason that without a high level of minimum wages, "full employment" can only become a disguise for human exploitation—that I introduced S 1349 into the Senate on August 1. Nine other Senators asked to join me in sponsoring the bill, thus indicating their understanding of the need for higher minimum wages if America is to become and remain truly prosperous in the days of peace.

The 65c Minimum Wage Bill, S 1349, is cast in the form of an amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938—otherwise called the Wage-Hour Act. S 1349 is unquestionably a great stride in the right direction. It is one of the most essential bills before Congress. It must be passed.

Then, using it as a base, we can push farther and farther toward final achievement of the goal of universally high living standards in the United States which we are confident our tremendous production capacity can fulfill.

SHOP TALK

Correct program, plus decisive action, equals a strong Union. This is how some of the locals have solved their problems.

Union Member Reinstated And Foreman Apologizes

By Max Sussman, Business Agent, Local 57

On Friday, Sept. 7, Tom Cheatem, the foreman on the first floor of the Southern Biscuit Co., picked up James Diggs and had him fired without allowing him to have Union representation or giving any excuse. On Monday morning, the Union Committee went to the Company.

The Company refused to discuss it with the Committee and me, so we threatened to bring them up before the National Labor Relations Board on charges of unfair labor practices.

This got immediate results. Diggs was reinstated with full rights and three days' back pay. Not only that, but, as part of the conditions of settling the dispute, Tom Cheatem got the whole contract read to him so that he wouldn't be so rash in the future.

Cheatem was summoned to appear before the Union Committee and was properly bawled out for his actions. He left the meeting looking like a dish rag.

Callie Gregory, Shop Steward in the Department, and Chief Shop Steward Adele Ellis deserve lots of credit for their prompt action in nailing this case up.

Settling Grievances Is a Skilled Job

By P. L. Shorter, Financial Secretary, Local 99

As organized workers, we are thoroughly convinced that "an injury to one is an injury to all." We also agree that whenever and wherever there is a misunderstanding, a wilful act, or a disregard for "the other fellow's interest," there is also bound to be harm done to someone.

A grievance exists only when a worker is aware of a wrong done himself or his comrades, or when he has just or supposed grounds for complaint.

Settling a grievance is one of the most delicate jobs of a Shop Steward. The approach, the way he proceeds and prosecutes the grievance and his honest intention to win the case require a thorough knowledge of labor and management relations.

It is very satisfying to know that each case was won with credit to the efforts of organized labor. A lot depends on being able to tell the management what you want them to know, and telling them in a way to make them like it.

Strong Union Arguments Win 100% Checkoff

By Dixie Tiller, Member Local 64 and Int. Vice-Pres.

Without recourse to the War Labor Board or any other Government agency, Local 64 was able to win 100% compulsory irrevocable checkoff through Union-Management negotiations at the Van Camp Seafood Company. Here is how we did it:

In 1944 we were successful in getting initiation fees and first month's dues check-off from new members despite the fact that there was never any opposition from the Company to the collection of dues during working hours.

During negotiations for a new contract this year, the Union pointed out to the Company that instead of causing difficulty for the Company, checkoff for new members had in fact resulted in better relations between the Company and Local 64. This was true because checkoff of new members gave the Shop Stewards more time to devote to the settlement of grievances and assuring full production. And checkoff kept the Union running smoothy because, in spite of the terrific turnover, all new workers contributed their fair share to the expense of running the Union.

The fact that Van Camp's had been one of two fish canneries to be awarded the "A" Award for production further strengthened the Union's argument. And when the Negotiating Committee pointed out that Shop Stewards, relieved of the collection of dues, could spend even more time on keeping labor-management relations going smoothly, the Company had to agree to full checkoff of Union fees.

From UAW "Ammunition"

Notes from LOCALS

Write Congress

3 Los Angeles, Calif.—Letters requesting favorable action on the Murray-Patman Full Employment Bill, the Kilgore-Forand Unemployment Compensation Bill, the Wagner-Dingell Social Security Bill, the Chavez-Norton Bill for a Permanent FEPC and the Pepper-Hook Bill for a 65c minimum wage were sent by Local 3 to California Congressmen.

The letters were written as the result of a membership meeting of Local 3 at which the voting records of each of the Congressmen were discussed, as well as the importance of the bills called to their attention.

Shop Committee

7-2 Seattle, Wash.—At a recent membership meeting of Local 7-2, Mary Wilston, Mary Colannino, Grace Bull, Geoffrey Hyatt and Robert Mabe were elected to serve as the Shop Committee at the National Fruit Canning Company.

By Myrtle French

New Contract

115 Depew, N. Y.—At its regular monthly membership meeting at Garry's Hall, Local 115's new contract with Quaker Oats Co. was read and approved by the membership. The contract is ready for signing.

Some of the gains won were time-and-a-half pay for V-J Day, time-and-a-half pay for Saturday work where a holiday falls in the week, and 48 hours' pay for vacations instead of the former 40 hours.

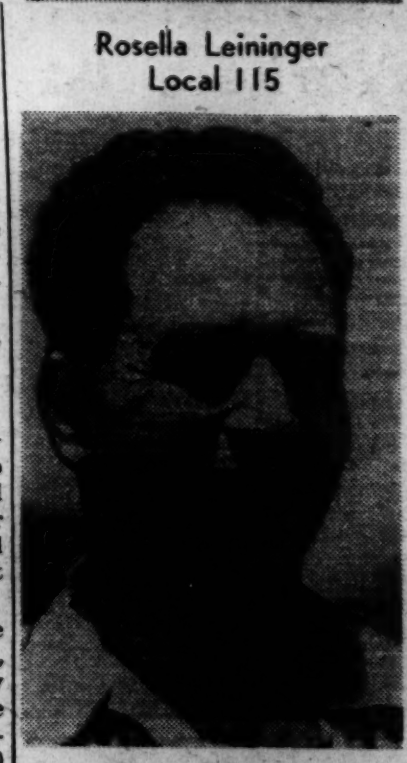
By Florence Palmer, Reporter

Some Advice from the Locals on How to

Get Members Active

Andrew Dotterman
Local 638

Rosella Leininger
Local 115



Severino Martinez
Local 273

ONE of the big problems bothering many FTA Locals is: "How can we get our members to become more active in the Union?" They figure, and rightly so, that the strongest Local, the Local that can win the most gains for its members, is the one where nearly every member is active in some phase of the Union work.

A few FTA members have already expressed their views on the subject, and the general opinion is that to be good active Union members, the membership should be educated by the Local on the provisions of the Union contract so that they can have pride and confidence in knowing their rights and the gains the Union has won. Regular department meetings, too, would involve more members and handle the specific problems in each department.

Informing the members about bills in Congress that should be passed helps to spread the word around and to get solid backing in the communities for important pieces of legislation which would improve the conditions of the working people. Union members should look to the local for leadership in making gains through political action as well as through negotiation with management.

Peppy Meetings

Peppy membership meetings with speakers, movies, entertainment and social affairs are other ways of making members feel that they "belong" and have an important role to play in the union.

Andy Dotterman, Treasurer of Local 638, and Harry Tillbrook of the same local, say that "to keep up the fight for a bigger Union and for better wages and shorter hours, our local has prevailed upon its members to make personal contact with each worker in the factories. This is gaining results for our organizing drive. Quite a number of war workers who returned to the cigar industry have signed up, as well as new employees.

"We keep abreast of the progress made by the rest of FTA by sending delegates to all regional and national meetings of the Union."

Genuine Interest

Rosella Leininger, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 115, believes that "one of the most important factors in a local is genuine interest of the members. I think that the officers, above all, should be enthusiastic. I also believe that matters that are of most interest to the members should be discussed at meetings. Important facts should be broached and discussed at general meetings so that everyone would be eager to attend to find out what is going on."

"Local 273 has taken steps to activize members by setting up three very important committees —organizational, educational and political action," Severino Martinez, Business Agent, informs us.

"On August 23 we had a very good meeting on reconversion for Shop Stewards and committee members. The hall was packed. Brother Leon, our President, and Secretary Garcia, discussed how the reactionary elements want a vast army of starving unemployed to lower wage standards and undermine unions. We then discussed the 65c minimum wage bill, the $25 for 26 weeks unemployment compensation bill, the Full Employment Bill, the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill and a Permanent FEPC.

"All the Local 273 shops closed on August 29 at 4 P.M. so that everyone could attend the CIO Jobs Rally."

Ark. Locals Campaign to Close Ranks

By Harry Koger, Sub-Regional Director

Little Roke, Ark.—Following a recent appeal by International Secy.-Treas. Harold J. Lane, a "close-the-gap" campaign is being organized by Arkansas FTA locals. A real push was given to the campaign when a 60c minimum was won by Local 98 at the Arkansas Fertilizer Co.

Two locals and six plant units have already joined in the campaign which has as its objective the signing up of non-union workers in each organized plant, as well as the organizing of all unorganized plants within FTA's jurisdiction in Arkansas.

Roy Williams, Local 98 President, will assist in directing the campaign in Little Rock. George Shaw and William Slater of Local 232 will jointly have charge of the drive in Helena.

Sub-Regional Director Harry Koger will assist by giving general supervision to the campaign. Weekly pep meetings are scheduled in Little Rock.

Local leaders who volunteered to serve on the "close-the-gap" committee are: M. W. Taylor, A. Gibson, Robert White, Albert Miller, E. H. Hollinshead, John Stewart, Roy Williams, Henry Aubrey, Lee Hodges, Mary McBroom, Legie Swanson, Wylie Ruffin, George Hoskins, John Reed, R. C. Cole and Andrew Humphrey.

Contract negotiations are also in progress at Helena Compress, Helena, and Southern Cotton Oil, Buckeye Cotton Oil and Cameron Feed Mill in Little Rock.

World Labor

CHINA: The heroic story of how industrial workers helped set up and maintain resistance bases behind Japanese lines in north, central and south China is told in a report just prepared by the Federation of Trade Unions of the China Liberated Areas, the labor organization which grew to amazing strength in the space of a few years.

Shen Chien-tu, Allied Labor News correspondent, gives the highlights of the report in a dispatch from Yenan, capital of guerilla China.

It reveals that a total of 24,000 workers entered the Communist-led 8th Route Army in north China in 1938-39 alone. More than 10,000 workers of the famous Kailan mines, formerly a Sino-British concern, formed a guerrilla detachment after a revolt in which they captured the mines for some days and subsequently became the first regular column to invade Manchuria.

Every Soldier a Unionist

In central China, the New 4th Army has one brigade composed of workers from four industrial cities in which every man and every officer from the commander down is a unionist. Workers form half the enlisted personnel of this army south of the Yangtze and fully 80% of its strength in the Shanghai-Nanking area. Gen. Wang Chen, commanding all resistance troops in Hunan, is a former locomotive fireman.

These workers not only fought the Japanese but produced an ever-increasing flow of arms, ammunition, clothing, medicine and food to keep the guerrilla bases alive in the face of a double economic blockade, by the Japanese on one side and Chiang Kai-shek's troops on the other.

During the war output of industry in the guerrilla regions increased many times, while the efficiency of individual plants in the last two years rose from 30% to 120%.

British Food Industry Workers Fighting For A Better World

THE following article was sent to FTA NEWS by R. Seabrook, Area Organizer of the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers, our sister union in Great Britain, to which workers in the food processing and distributive industries are affiliated. Brother Seabrook's acquaintance was made by Int. Rep.-on-leave Sgt. Jack Fox while he was stationed in Britain.

By R. Seabrook,
Area Organizer, NUDAW

FORTY years ago, the trades unions in Great Britain took the first steps which led to the formation of the British Labour Party, and in the General Election of July this year, the Labour Party for the first time won an overwhelming majority of seats in the House of Commons.

Throughout these past forty years, the trades unions have been the main support of the Labour Party, and now that Labour is the Government, it can rely with confidence on the continued support of the trades union movement in this country in carrying out the program for reconstruction and reform which won the endorsement of 12 million voters at the polls. Indeed, some of the most responsible government posts are today occupied by well-known trades union leaders.

The changed situation was reflected at the Trades Union Congress (the national body to which all British unions are affiliated) when the Miners withdrew a resolution calling for the nationalization of the coal mining industry because the Government has declared it will do just that in the next few months. The demand for repeal of the Trades Disputes Act (an anti-labor measure) was also made unnecessary by the Government's pledge to repeal it in the next session.

Gathering Fruits of Victory

There is no underestimation of the serious problems facing the British people, but there is a determination that these problems shall be tackled with vigor, and that those who have sacrificed so much to win the victory over fascism, shall be the ones to gather some of the fruits of victory. The ground has been cleared by the defeat of Tory reaction in the election.

While the trades unions are pledging full support to the Government, they are at the same time reserving their independence and their right of criticism. This was made clear at the Trades Union Congress by the unanimous adoption of a resolution demanding speedier demobilization of the armed forces. The Unions are determined that the fighting men shall be returned to civilian life as speedily as possible.

The TUC has also carried resolutions demanding of industry that the guaranteed work week shall be retained; enforcement by law of trades union agreements; retention of the worker's right of appeal against dismissal, to an indedendent tribunal; and the "rate for the job" irrespective of age or sex.

This year's TUC is attended by fraternal delegates from all over the world. It is expected to endorse the draft statutes of the new World Federation of Trade Unions. We see the growing unity and strength of the working people of the world, with consequent economic, political and social gains. Those who refuse to take part in the WFTU will be left far behind. The war has brought the working people more closely together. We have learned that only fascism and reaction can triumph over divisions in the ranks of peoples and nations.

We all bear a heavy burden of debt to the men and women of all nations who died in order that we might have the right to join a trade union, have a say in the conditions under which we shall work and live, and enjoy those rights and freedoms which distinguish free men from slaves.

We must build the trade unions and secure better standards of wages and conditions so that men and women in the future will never know the hunger and misery which has been the lot of so many in the past.

Determined to Raise Standards

I notice that in the United States, as in Great Britain, the workers employed in food production, processing and distribution are among the lowest paid sections. Like yourselves, we are determined to raise these standards. I rejoice in the successes you have already achieved, and look forward to hearing of further victories. We have an old trade union slogan, "an injury to one, is an injury to all," and a victory for the workers anywhere, is a victory for all workers everywhere.

I hope it will be possible to establish the closest contact between our two Unions, whose members, in view of the world food shortage, are engaged in such important work.

In spite of the trials of the past and of the immediate future, the years to come are bright with the promise of better days. The responsibility is on everyone of us to ensure that the "promises" are turned into live reality.

British Workers like these (above) are tackling their reconversion problems after the great victory which put the Labour Party in power in England. Some of labor's demands now include retention of the guaranteed work week; enforcement by law of union agreements; job security; and equal pay regardless of age or sex.

Write a Letter

FTA members, here is an opportunity to make friends with members of the food processing union of England. You can start a correspondence by writing a letter to a food worker in England. Send it to FTA NEWS, Room 418, 1505 Race St., Phila. 2, Pa., and we will send it to our sister union in Britain.

The Slip Knot

Representatives Of 60 Million Workers At Paris Meeting Of WFTU

Washington, D. C. — Preliminary approval of the draft constitution of the World Trade Union Federation rolled in from trade union organizations of a dozen different countries last month, as delegates left for the Sept. 25 meeting of the WFTU in Paris.

Some 60 million of the world's organized workers will be represented by the WFTU, for which the draft constitution was drawn up by the Administrative Committee in Oakland, Calif., last May.

CIO Pres. Philip Murray, in an article in the Soviet trade union journal, New Times, announced that at its meeting in July, the CIO Executive Board instructed the CIO delegation to the WFTU to vote for affiliation of the CIO with the Federation. The CIO Board, at that time, also voted approval of the draft constitution.

"Our delegation will attend the Paris Conference, confident that the next step will be taken on the road to world trade union unity," said Murray, who is also a member of the Administrative Committee of the WFTU.

"We must secure adhesion to the Federation not only of the large industrial countries," Murray emphasized, "but also as many as possible of the small countries, including the colonial and semi-colonial areas. Well learned by the world has been the lesson that oppressive conditions in one country act as a source of infection for all countries. The development of strong trade unions is the guarantee of progress toward higher living standards and eventual independence."

Another issue of extreme importance which Murray revealed would be brought up before the Paris meeting is "the right of the WFTU to be heard on all questions of international security, and to insure that the point of view of trade unions is directly presented by their own representative in the Social and Economic Council."

Sidney Hillman, a CIO delegate to the WFTU and chairman of CIO-PAC, pointed out that those who barred the WFTU from the United Nations Conference last May hoped to bury it. "But," he said in a recent article in Colliers Magazine, "they are doomed to disappointment. The delegates who met in London came from 48 trade-union organizations of 35 nations. There they spoke for 60 million men and women. In Paris, additional nations and millions more organized workers will be represented. After Paris, the WFTU will continue to grow."

The WFTU "includes men of every political faith and party, from the most conservative of trade unionists to Communists. It can, and will, be one of the most potent instruments of world peace and a tower of strength to the United Nations in their effort to make peace durable."

UNION MEN IN UNIFORM

"The Price Was My Neck"—Heroic Story Of The Philippine Liberation

Seattle, Wash.—Now that the war is over, the secret story can be told of how an FTA member, with the aid of the valiant Filipino guerilla fighters, helped pave the way for the liberation of the Philippines.

M/Sgt. Nick Manzano, Local 7 member and former King Cove Cannery worker, was one of the first of a group of nine Filipinos who were sent on a secret mission to land on Philippine soil. Following his landing on Mindanao in December, 1943, by submarine, Manzano was alerted and ordered to prepare for a mission to cover Luzon.

Nick Manzano

By sailboat he arrived on Luzon, the first Filipino to land there after the Japanese occupation. The trip was hazardous, through Jap infested waters where every shore of every island was patrolled. He had to use his own judgment in moving to reach an island without being caught.

No Mercy From Japs

"If I were caught," Manzano related, "I knew I would not get any mercy from the enemy because I was carrying things that would mean their doom. The price was my neck."

Landing on Luzon, he did not lose a moment in establishing his station from where he sent reports nightly to his superior officer, who, in turn, immediately relayed them to General Headquarters. Manzano's job was to relay information about enemy troops, supply and air movements. This he got by traveling from place to place, rubbing elbows with the Japanese soldiers.

During his ten months' stay in Luzon, picking up information about the Japs, he experienced many difficulties. Because he was cut off from getting supplies from his unit, he lived on anything he

Organized Guerrillas

Finally, when the Task Force landed on Leyte, Manzano was ordered to help organize the guerrillas on the Island of Samar who had been fighting the Japs every inch of the way until our troops landed. Once organized into a regiment, the guerrillas started cleaning Japs from the island. And they did a good job, liberating town after town, and occupying every Jap garrison.

During a recent visit to Local 7 headquarters, Manzano related: "The guerrilla Combat Regiment worked wonderfully. We had no supplies, but our salvation was the liberated civilians. They gave us all they had, housed and fed us in all our operations.

"After the island of Samar was liberated, the U. S. Filipino Regiment Infantry came in and helped us mop up the Jap remnants hiding in the mountains."

When the job was finished, Manzano was given a 45-day furlough home.

Before entering the Army, Manzano made a great contribution to the victory which won for Local 7 sole collective bargaining rights in the Alaska Salmon Industry. Following this, he joined the First Filipino Regiment Infantry, organized in California, where he was soon promoted to First Sergeant. In 1943, he was sent by the Allied Intelligence Bureau to Australia for training on intelligence and jungle fighting in preparation for his role in the liberation of the Philippines.

Union Gets Free Courses for Vets

Winston-Salem, N. C. — Educational classes for returning servicemen, requested by Local 22's Veterans Committee, have been adopted by the public school authorities of Winston-Salem, and plans are now going ahead to organize classes.

At the Local's Veterans Committee meeting on August 25, the most servicemen would like to have some elementary classes in reading and writing, or in high school subjects like English and history.

The Union got in touch with the principal of Atkins High School, which has night vocational courses, and discussed these requests with him. As a result, the city school system has announced that it will give the classes which the vets requested, provided the veterans let them know what type of courses they want.

Vets Help Union Fight for Jobs

Long Island, N. Y. — Apple stands manned by 16 veterans of World War II were set up recently in front of the Selector Manufacturing Co. to remind the company that the vets didn't fight the war to make the country safe for union-busting.

The vets are among 300 members of Local 1227, CIO Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, who were laid off after V-J Day.

Picketing began when the firm informed the union that it was ready to rehire 75 workers, but only on condition that it could pick the workers it wanted, in violation of the seniority clause in the contract. The workers said nothing doing.

"Never saw a man so anxious to get out of uniform."

Rankin Open Shop Bill Blasted By Congressman

Washington, D. C. — "Servicemen have no greater friends than their fellow workers who have remained on the home front," said Rep. Charles Savage of Washington in a recent blast in Congress at the Rankin Bill which would use veterans as a wedge in legalizing the open shop, and stir up strife between labor and the vets.

"Thousands upon thousands of our servicemen were union men before they were soldiers. Many unions have kept servicemen in good standing while in the armed forces," the young West Coast progressive added, pointing out that many unions have waived initiation fees for servicemen and have established special committees to handle veteran problems.

"If we make strike breakers out of returning servicemen by law, they will no longer have the protection from their brother union men. They would be the potential threat to the American standard of living." He warned that enactment of the Rankin Bill could also lead to vast unemployment by helping employers undersell and put their competitors out of business, thus causing plant shutdowns and union-busting campaigns.

First Hand Knowledge

Savage spoke with first-hand knowledge of the veterans' desires, having just returned from Europe where he talked to thousands of servicemen, and spent 11 days on his return trip on board a ship with 7,000 returning troops.

"They desire to come back to this country and get back into their respective walks of life," he reported. "They want jobs and opportunities all right, but they want jobs and opportunities for all the people. They know that any program to give veterans jobs and leave the civilian population unemployed is an impossibility. They realize that their only security lies in full employment for all the workers."

Hitler's Tactics

Rep. Savage recalled that Hitler's first move to establish fascism in Germany was to destroy labor unions—the core of opposition to fascism—and that the Rankin bill was a "fascist measure." It is unjust for the "boys returning home from fighting fascism, to ask them to start fighting for fascism at home, in America," he said. He urged that industrial disputes be settled in the American way, across the negotiating table, "instead of fomenting industrial disputes by pitting one worker against the other as this bill would do."

THE Story of Labor
THE FIRST REAL TRADE UNION IN AMERICA BEGAN IN PHILADELPHIA IN 1794. IT WAS THE FEDERAL SOCIETY OF CORDWAINERS (OR SHOEMAKERS.). IN 1805 THEY STRUCK FOR HIGHER WAGES. THEY PUT OUT THE FIRST PICKET LINES AND WERE THE FIRST TO YELL SCAB AT THOSE WHO WOULDN'T JOIN.
THE FRIGHTENED EMPLOYERS INVOKED THE COURTS. THE UNION OFFICIALS WERE INDICTED ON A CHARGE OF "CONSPIRACY TO RAISE THEIR WAGES." AFTER A FAMOUS TRIAL THEY WERE CONVICTED AND FINED. OTHER STATES FOLLOWED SUIT. FOR A WHILE IT LOOKED DARK FOR THE LABOR UNIONS; SINCE EVERY COMBINATION FOR BETTER CONDITIONS WAS PROMPTLY CALLED "A CONSPIRACY."
JOE WORKER
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A STREET IN PHILADELPHIA IN 1805....
HOW DARE YOU TELL MY LOYAL MEN TO KEEP OUT? I'LL HAVE THE LAW ON YOU!
HE LOYAL? TO WHOM? NOT TO HIS FELLOW WORKERS! HE'S A SCAB!
STRIKE OF CORDWAINERS KEEP OUT
THE EMPLOYERS MADE GOOD THEIR THREAT AND RAN TO THE MAYOR FOR HELP
WE DEMAND YOU ARREST THESE RADICAL AGITATORS, MR. MAYOR!
IMAGINE! THEY WANT A RAISE IN WAGES! IT'S A CONSPIRACY!
AH YES! THAT'S WHAT WE'LL DO... CHARGE 'EM WITH CONSPIRACY!
YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST. WE GOT WARRANTS!
ARREST? LAY A HAND ON ME AND I'LL BEAT YOUR BRAINS IN!
NO FIGHTING, BILL. NO COURT CAN CONVICT US!
STRIKE OF CORDWAINERS KEEP OUT
JOE WORKER WAS MISTAKEN. COURT AND JURY WERE TOLD ALL STRIKERS WERE FOREIGNERS
IT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE TO COMBINE TO REGULATE THE PRICE OF LABOR. THIS UNION, COMPOSED OF MEN ONLY A LITTLE TIME IN THIS COUNTRY, OUGHT TO SUBMIT TO ITS LAWS, AND NOT TRY TO ALTER THEM!
SHALL MERCHANTS AND EMPLOYERS BE ALLOWED TO COMBINE FOR RAISING PRICES, AND YET THESE POOR MEN BE INDICTED FOR COMBINING AGAINST STARVATION!
THE JURY WAS OUT ONLY 20 MINUTES. NOT A SINGLE WORKER HAD BEEN ALLOWED ON IT....
WHAT IS YOUR VERDICT?
THEY'LL FREE US... THEY CAN'T...
WE FIND THE DEFENDANTS GUILTY OF A CONSPIRACY TO RAISE THEIR WAGES!
HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO SAY BEFORE I SENTENCE YOU?
I HAVE! THE NAME OF FREEDOM IS ONLY A SHADOW WHEN HONEST WORKERS CAN BE TREATED AS FELONS FOR DEMANDING A LIVING WAGE. YOU'VE WON THIS TIME BY YELLING FOREIGNER AT US! NEXT TIME IT WON'T WORK. WE'LL STRIKE AGAIN AND AGAIN... UNTIL THE JAILS CAN'T HOLD US ALL!